



## MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

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**Councilors Present:** Greg Abbe (for Jennifer D Maddox), Cindy Arcate, Jo Ann Bodemer (for Maura Healey), Amy Boyd, Cindy Carroll, Tim Costa, Eugenia Gibbons (for Mary Wambui), Paul Gromer, Justin Davidson, Maggie Downey, Frank Gundal, Charlie Harak, Elliott Jacobson, Paul Johnson, Sherry Berelli (for Jane Lano), Deirdre Manning, Cammy Peterson, Chris Porter, Robert Rio, Stephanie Terach, Dennis Villanueva, Sharon Weber (for Martin Suuberg), Commissioner Patrick Woodcock (as Chair)

**Councilors Absent:** Deirdre Manning, Andrew Newman

**Consultants Present:** Eric Belliveau, Adrian Caesar, Adam Jacobs, Margie Lynch

**DOER Staff Present:** Rachel Evans, Ian Finlayson, Maggie McCarey, Emily Powers

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### 1. Call to Order

Commissioner Woodcock, as Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM.

### 2. Public Comment

#### *A Better City (Yve Torrie)*

Torrie detailed seven key points on which they would like to follow up with Councilors. The first point was to enhance communication between the Program Administrators (PAs) and C&I sector. Second, Torrie suggested the development of enhanced deep energy retrofit and electrification incentives. Torrie indicated that reducing building emissions through C&I electrification and deep energy retrofit projects will be key for meeting goals. The third recommendation was expansion of Mass Save workforce development and training programs. Fourth, Torrie recommended the incorporation of resilience and other non-energy benefits into energy efficiency programs. The fifth recommendation were robust combined heat and power (CHP) project incentives. Next, Torrie suggested an incentive structure for electric vehicles (EVs) is included in programs. Lastly, Torrie recommended greater alignment of Three-Year

Energy Efficiency Program Plans with the Global Warming Solutions Act, particularly in light of the 2050 Decarbonization Roadmap and draft Clean Energy and Climate Bill.

### **3. Council Updates & Business**

#### ***Virtual Meeting Procedure Review***

McCarey reviewed the virtual EEAC meeting procedures, which included the following:

1. The Council meetings would be recorded.
2. All attendees except for Councilors and presenters would remain muted for the duration of the meeting.
3. Councilors would hold comments until the end of presentations, but Councilors and other participants should speak instead of using any chat functionality.
4. Councilors who disconnect from meetings need to announce when they rejoin.
5. All Council votes would be taken by a roll call for accuracy.

#### ***Potential Study Update***

Dyke-Redmond indicated the PAs, with the exception of Cape Light Compact, have recently shared draft potential study results with the C-Team. Johnson asked to what extent the studies were coordinated between PAs, since historically it has been difficult to draw comparisons between and aggregate study results. Dyke-Redmond said the PAs have met throughout 2020 to coordinate potential study approaches, but since separate vendors are completing the studies, differences in results formatting would be likely.

Woodcock wondered what the expected timeline for potential study completion was. Dyke-Redmond said the PAs anticipate finalizing results in March, though they will need to be updated once the Avoided Energy Supply Cost (AESC) Study is finalized. Hanover added that final results would be shared with the C-Team in advance of the April 30<sup>th</sup> filing date.

Belliveau said the draft results are limited to spreadsheet values, and until the corresponding potential study methodologies are also shared, the C-Team will be unable to complete the Assessment of Potential. Dyke-Redmond clarified that the PAs have shared all the potential study results to date, and Eversource would be sharing potential study methodology this week. Belliveau reiterated that the C-Team previously requested to receive all information as soon as it became available, so PA cooperation with this request was appreciated.

Peterson was frustrated by the limited time frame to review potential study results before the April Draft Plan. Peterson urged the PAs to provide the C-Team all necessary potential study information prior to the March Council meeting, and also urged the PAs to complete studies earlier during the next Three-Year Planning cycle.

Johnson asked if the initial potential study results contained any surprising trends. Dyke-Redmond said there was a notable decline in lighting potential for Eversource, but the full results were still being summarized. Commissioner Woodcock said it would be helpful know when data and results would be available for review.

Belliveau noted that analyzing potential study results to inform Three-Year Plan savings goals and cost to achieve estimates is a significant effort that requires immediate delivery of final potential study results. Cowell indicated the National Standard Practice Manual for Benefit-Cost Analysis could be a valuable evaluation reference for the PAs and C-Team.

Boyd echoed Peterson's comments regarding frustration over potential study delays, and hoped that the C-Team would receive all necessary results in time for the March Council meeting. Boyd reiterated that coordination between PAs and completing potential studies in time for the 2022-2024 Planning cycle were emphasized during 2020.

### ***Climate Bill Update***

Commissioner Woodcock detailed a number of legislative impacts on Council work related to the proposed climate bill, including a transfer of funding from the PAs to the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center for workforce development as well as a proposal to include the social cost of carbon in program benefits calculations.

### ***January Executive Committee Meeting Minutes***

Lyne pointed out a minor typing error on Page 3 of the Minutes. Boyd motioned to approve the minutes as amended. Bodemer seconded. All were in favor, with none opposed. Bodemer and Commissioner Woodcock abstained. The minutes were approved, as amended, by the Executive Committee.

### ***January EEAC Meeting Minutes***

On Page 7 and 8 of the Minutes, Lyne indicated two typing errors. Bodemer motioned to approve the minutes as amended. Peterson seconded. All were in favor, with none opposed. Commissioner Woodcock abstained. The minutes were approved, as amended, by the Council.

### ***2022-2024 Planning Workshop #5 Summary***

Arcate noted that "Power Options" should be replaced with "National Grid" at the bottom of Page 9 of the Workshop #5 Summary. Arcate motioned to approve the Workshop #5 Summary as amended. Bodemer seconded. All were in favor, with none opposed. Commissioner Woodcock, Gibbons, and Jacobson abstained. The Workshop #5 Summary was approved, as amended, by the Council

### ***2022-2024 Planning Workshop #6 Summary***

Arcate motioned to approve the Workshop #6 Summary as submitted. Bodemer seconded. All were in favor, with none opposed. Gibbons and Johnson abstained. The Workshop #6 Summary was approved, as submitted, by the Council.

### ***2021 EEAC Budget Request to the DPU***

Powers reviewed the 2021 EEAC budget request to be filed with the DPU. Powers indicated the Electric and Gas PA budget was split using the same distribution as 2020. Harak motioned to approve Budget Request. Arcate seconded. All were in favor, with none opposed. Johnson and Gibbons abstained. The Budget Request was approved, as submitted, by the Council.

## **4. 2022-2024 Three-Year Planning**

### ***Three Year Planning Recommendations: Finalization***

Powers announced the Council Resolution on the Three-Year Plan would be voted on during the March Council meeting, since the Resolution would derive key takeaways and high-level priorities from the finalized Plan Recommendations.

Lynch and Jacobs, on behalf of the C-Team, reviewed the full list of recommendations and changes made since the previous draft.

### ***Residential Three-Year Plan Recommendations***

Under the Income Eligible Recommendation on increasing heat pump installations, Commissioner Woodcock thought “any necessary” air sealing and weatherization (Wx) prior to heat pump installation did not indicate whether there was a specific prerequisite level of air sealing and weatherization. Commissioner Woodcock said if the goal is to properly size heat pumps, then the language should reflect that. Jacobson replied that full Wx would always be done prior to heat pump installation. Cowell suggested that the term “any necessary” should be replaced with “appropriate” for clarity.

Villanueva suggested that Wx is required, but waivers should be provided where Wx barriers exist. Lynch clarified that comprehensive Wx services are provided at no cost within Income Eligible Services (IES) customers, so this would only be an issue in the market rate retrofit programs.

Johnson agreed that Wx work should be required for buildings with insufficient building shell insulation, and the Council needs to prioritize Wx in the next Three-Year Plan. Jacobson said this was already the standard procedure for IES heat pump installations.

Harak asked why cold climate heat pumps were listed in the Recommendation, since they are a subset of heat pump types. Lynch responded that Massachusetts is a cold climate state where heat pumps are primarily meant for heating, so the Recommendation was written accordingly.

Abbe wondered if appropriate sizing of heat pumps also captured cost-effectiveness considerations under which projects are constrained. Commissioner Woodcock interpreted the proposed language as emphasizing air sealing and Wx to ensure appropriate sizing of heat pumps.

Gibbons suggested the language clearly indicated the goal is to complete appropriate Wx to ensure proper heat pump sizing. Boyd suggested “all recommended air sealing and weatherization” is included in the priority. Cowell added that a study in New York showed that savings resulting from properly sized heat pumps helped cover Wx costs.

Regarding the Income Eligible Recommendation on strengthening multifamily pipelines, Jacobson indicated that LEAN has been coordinating with the PAs to discuss an effective plan for ensuring equitable service in the IES Multifamily program.

Commissioner Woodcock asked if “provide more flexibility for multifamily building owners” meant providing more flexibility in paying project costs. Lynch indicated building owners would have more flexibility in using their own vendors to meet their needs. Washburn said this was added in response to public comment and to allow for increased packaging of measures. Peterson also noted that the increased refinancing window was an important facet of flexibility.

### ***C&I Three-Year Plan Recommendations***

For the C&I Existing Buildings Recommendation on lighting controls, Cowell asked if controlling streetlight intensity was included. Jacobs confirmed that streetlight controls were included, and added that the city of Cambridge is investigating necessary levels of roadway illumination. Johnson stated that appropriate streetlight temperature is also important, and encouraged the Council to guide community members on light temperature. Villanueva said any lighting control adjustments that will result in increased energy efficiency should be recommended. Commissioner Woodcock suggested the Recommendation should include providing technical assistance to municipalities in order to optimize streetlight controls.

Cowell suggested incorporating electric vehicle (EV) charging into Mass Save programs to prepare for growing vehicle electrification. Jacobs said EV charging is included in the New Construction Recommendations, but it should also be built into Demand Response Recommendations. Commissioner Woodcock cautioned against Mass Save EV programs being redundant with other activities that are underway.

Johnson asked why the CHP Recommendation on conducting economic analysis to determine whether CHP projects needed Mass Save incentives to generate a 5-year positive cash flow was removed. Jacobs said some Councilors were opposed to an overly prescriptive CHP project screening approach. Commissioner Woodcock wondered if economic analysis was still captured in the Recommendations as written. Jacobs indicated that impact evaluations for CHP projects were still included.

### ***Workforce Development Three-Year Plan Recommendations***

Jacobs clarified that the Equity Working Group (EWG) developed a separate set of Plan Recommendations which also included specific workforce development efforts.

Commissioner Woodcock was interested in the response to the transfer of PA funds to the CEC for workforce development, as well as related implications for the 2022-2024 Plan.

Song responded that the PAs need to review the proposed climate bill to understand full implications on the Plan, but the PAs are dedicated to comprehensive workforce development. Commissioner Woodcock requested an update once the legislation was resolved. Lyne said the PAs would share their review on the climate bill effects on the Plan in March. Gibbons noted that a summary of current workforce development efforts would help contextualize the potential funding transfer. Lyne indicated he would follow up with the PAs on providing a summary of current workforce development efforts.

### ***Equity Working Group Three-Year Plan Recommendations***

Peterson said the recommendations were reorganized to list high-level priority items earlier in the text.

Under the EWG Recommendation to ensure partnerships lead to participation, Cowell indicated that Energize Massachusetts has worked to partner with lower-income communities. Peterson indicated an Energize Massachusetts representative participated in an EWG meeting, so they look forward to continued involvement and contribution.

Commissioner Woodcock asked if the examples included under the Recommendation on improving the income qualification process should be deleted since we are looking to present finalized suggestions to the PAs. Washburn said these could be included as footnotes for clarity.

Jacobson asked if voting in favor of the Recommendations meant all included language was supported. Commissioner Woodcock replied that voting in favor suggests support for the full package of Recommendations.

Johnson noted the expansion of IES eligibility was not included in the Workshop 1-4 Recommendations Clean version. Peterson said this was removed for clarity, since using state median income (SMI) as opposed to area median income (AMI) is more consistent.

Harak supported the use of SMI, and thought a highly simplified application that used eligibility for other financial assistance programs would be a good example to include. Harak also wanted to ensure monitoring of progress on equity and diversity goals were included in the Recommendations.

Gibbons similarly emphasized the need for clear, measurable metrics of progress on achieving equitable outcomes in energy efficiency and climate change mitigation efforts. Commissioner Woodcock agreed on the importance of clear metrics. Gibbons also recommended that collaborative bodies similar to the EWG are established within each sector.

Johnson suggested that it would only be appropriate to vote on Recommendations once all content was finalized. Peterson said the previous recommendations at the last workshop were included, so this is the clean version informed by previous discussion that we are currently tracking changes on.

Cowell wondered what the budget implications would be for providing no-cost incentives to moderate income customers. Peterson indicated the EWG is still discussing this, there is agreement between many Councilors and stakeholders that enhanced moderate-income incentives are worth exploring. Arcate noted that no-cost incentives would be provided for the moderate-income customers identified in the Non-Participant Study who are unable to cover their share of project costs. Cowell suggested the language is clarified to reflect the actual intent.

Cowell said based on the language included under the Renters and Landlords recommendations, there could be overlap between efforts to improve whole building services between low-income and market rate multifamily programs. Peterson indicated there would be cross-program coordination, so a footnote could be added to communicate that.

Gibbons reiterated the importance to develop clear and trackable metrics for renter and landlord participation that facilitate transparency around underserved customers and their access to programs. Weber agreed that successful progress tracking and program oversight require measurable data. Peterson indicated a full description of reporting suggestions were detailed in the Cross-Cutting Recommendations.

Harak suggested that relevant racial and cultural participation data for vendors and vendor employees is reported annually to enable tracking over time. Harak said the PAs should report on enrollment in training and apprenticeship programs. Commissioner Woodcock asked if this data was already tracked by PAs. Jacobson supported tracking this data, but said a practical tracking and reporting system would be needed. Formica said the PAs are working with lead vendors and their subcontractors to get workforce participation data with racial and cultural indicators. Formica added that the PAs will track internship and apprenticeship demographics. Jacobs noted that tracking whether employers have diversity, equity, and inclusion policy can serve as a proxy in the event that full employee data is unavailable.

#### ***Council Vote***

Peterson motioned to approve the Council Recommendations as revised. Johnson seconded. All were in favor, with none opposed or abstaining. The Council 2022-2024 Plan Recommendations were approved, as revised, by the Council.

### **5. Behavior Programs Update**

Lyne indicated a memo on Behavior programs following the previous Council meeting and questions from the C-Team was shared with Council. Downes presented an update on Behavior programs that included responses to questions from C-Team, a summary of PA Behavior program results, and an explanation of the PA decision-making process.

Lynch recommended that smaller PAs facing cost-effectiveness challenges with Behavior programs explore a deemed savings approach with EM&V experts. Lynch questioned the amount of savings that will result from Eversource's new Behavior programs relative to persistent savings from previous Behavior programs. Lynch was concerned that the expectation of claiming half as many savings per customer and serving less customers under the new Behavioral approach warrants many questions for the remainder of the term. For all PAs, Lynch anticipated learning more about PA Behavior program plans for 2022-2024 and sharing that information with stakeholders.

Johnson thanked Lyne for providing the percentage of electric and gas customer emails on file, but was bothered by the fact that updates to Behavior programs have only been brought to the Council recently. Lyne mentioned that Eversource informally communicated new Behavioral approaches in 2020, but the December 2020 Council meeting was cancelled, therefore PAs could not provide a full update. Lyne emphasized that there was no intention for the PAs to withhold this information. Lyne appreciated Lynch's initial comments on the memo.

Evans informed the Council of several PA filings with the DPU, including Liberty's request to cancel their Behavior program contract. Evans noted that DOER was considering the submission of comments, but they would include discussion with Council in their feedback without commenting on the Council's behalf.

## **6. Adjournment**

Commissioner Woodcock, as chair, adjourned the meeting at 4:31 PM.